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**SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS TO TRAVEL TO
WASHINGTON TO SEEK ADDITIONAL FEDERAL
FUNDING FOR LOCAL RAIL LINE PROJECTS**

*Supervisor will meet with members of Congress, the Obama administration
and U.S. Department of Transportation officials*

LOS ANGELES – Building on last week's unanimous vote by the board of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to build a light rail system along the Crenshaw to Los Angeles International Airport Corridor, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas will be in Washington this week to seek additional federal funds for the project.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas championed the \$1.7 billion project, which according to MTA staff projections will generate 7,800 jobs – twice as many as a proposed bus rapid transit alternative would have produced.

The Supervisor, who left for Washington today after the Board of Supervisors meeting, will meet with members of Congress and Obama Administration transportation officials to discuss ways to close a \$485 million budget gap in the project.

The MTA has conducted extensive outreach regarding the Crenshaw/LAX project, and through the process, the community has identified several concerns regarding public safety and economic impacts.

On Oct. 22, the MTA Board of Directors approved a joint motion by Supervisors Ridley-Thomas and Mike Antonovich to pursue a variety of federal funds to close budget gaps on the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor and Gold Line Foothill Extension.

“We’re looking for the federal government to partner with the County of Los Angeles to close budget gaps identified with local transportation projects,” Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said.

The MTA Board of Directors also unanimously approved its Long-Range Transportation Plan, with an amendment by Supervisors Ridley-Thomas and Antonovich, intended to ensure that the long-range plan provides regional equity and an appropriate balance of projects and priorities.

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